

Medical Student Clinical Care Framework (M2-M4)

1. COVID – 19 vaccination is highly recommended and may be required by clinical affiliates.
2. Texas A&M School of Medicine will no longer apply specific exclusions to the care of patients with COVID-19 or patients at high-risk for COVID-19.
3. Clinical encounters involving patients with COVID-19 are governed by the same framework for other infectious agents including influenza, tuberculosis, hepatitis, HIV, MRSA, etc.
4. Direct COVID-19 care should be provided only in accordance with the guidelines of clinical affiliates and regulating entities.
5. Students and faculty should follow clinical affiliate and national/regional/local practice guidelines to reduce the risk of exposure.
6. As with all infectious diseases, student participation is voluntary and should be limited to patient care that is important for clinical learning objectives.
7. The clinical environment will never be without risks, but some encounters, environments, and procedures carry higher risks of exposure.
8. Students are responsible for maintaining proficiency regarding COVID-19 [pathophysiology](#), [transmission](#), [treatment](#) and [healthcare worker risk mitigation](#) through self-directed learning resources including the [CDC website](#), PPE education, appropriate [PPE donning](#) / [PPE doffing](#) methods
9. This document highlights the spectrum of clinical risks for COVID-19/infectious disease exposure.
10. Case-by-case shared decision-making should be practiced by the student and their clinical team to confirm that a clinical experience carries sufficient educational benefit to justify the potential risks of an exposure resulting from that encounter.
11. Risk assessment should include consideration of the clinical environment, planned procedure(s), patient status, and learning objectives.
12. Each student is empowered to decline participation in a clinical encounter that they determine to be an unacceptable risk to their health and/or well-being.
13. Students who believe that the clinical environment poses unacceptable risks are encouraged to discuss a leave of absence with their Student Affairs Dean.
14. Students must adhere to CDC, hospital affiliate, and [TAMU COVID-19 guidelines](#).
15. Local/affiliate guidelines for reporting, isolation, and re-entry supersede TAMU guidelines if they are more stringent.

Low Risk

Routine encounters with the afebrile patient and no symptoms consistent with an infectious etiology

Clinical encounters with COVID-19 negative test results

Clinical encounters with fully vaccinated symptom free patients

Proceed Using Standard PPE

Including [procedure mask](#) along with [augmented eye protection](#) at all times.

Moderate Risk

Procedures and/or surgeries involving the potential aerosolization of bodily fluids

Patients with known exposures

Immunocompromised patients

Unmasked patient encounters

Unvaccinated patients

Untested patients

Consider Donning:

Seal-checked / fit-tested [N-95 respirator](#), [augmented eye protection](#), & other PPE as per CDC or clinical affiliate requirements to **PROCEED.**

Elevated Risk

Patients in moderate risk category who have developed symptoms

Patients confirmed to be COVID-19 positive

Patients with symptoms concerning for COVID-19

Trauma / Emergency Patients

Intubation / Extubation

Labor & Delivery

Review Affiliate Requirements for Donning:

Fit-tested [N-95 respirator](#), [augmented eye protection](#), & other PPE as per CDC or clinical affiliate requirements to **PROCEED.**